

University of Houston-Downtown

Course Prefix, Number, and Title: ANTH 2302 Cultural Anthropology

Credits/Lecture/Lab Hours: 3/3/0

Foundational Component Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Course Description: Drawing on quantitative and qualitative research methods, this course looks at humanity’s cultural heritage with a broad, comparative, global perspective. In this course students will learn about humans as cultural beings. They will explore other cultures through a consideration of phenomena such as globalization, ethnicity, marriage, kinship, gender, economy, social stratification, and politics. Simple, agrarian societies will be compared with complex, industrial and post-industrial ones. Throughout the course, student will be exposed to the nature of fieldwork and anthropological theory from its 19th century origins to the present, and to ways in which the field of anthropology is impacted by globalization both theoretically and methodologically.

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Demonstration of Core Objectives within the Course:

Assigned Core Objective	Learning Outcome Students will be able to:	Instructional strategy or content used to achieve the outcome	Method by which students’ mastery of this outcome will be evaluated
Critical Thinking	Identify the interplay among individuals, groups, institutions, and events within the context of society and culture. (Definition of focus for the social sciences component area)	Reading, class discussions, and other course content (e.g. films) related to anthropological ethnographies, and documentaries about western and non-western societies	Some combination of: Exams including written essay questions; At least 6 pages of writing outside of class; And/or, Class presentations, or some form of assessable, structured class discussion
Critical Thinking Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning	Analyze or interpret empirically derived information and infer logical conclusions.	Reading, discussion and examination of major anthropological theories Students will evaluate empirical findings in assigned readings or journal articles	Some combination of: Exams including written essay questions based on assigned reading of quantitative and qualitative studies and/or excerpts from original theory texts or journal articles;

			<p>And/or,</p> <p>At least a 2-3 pages of writing outside of class based on assigned reading of quantitative and qualitative studies and/or excerpts from original theory texts or journal articles;</p> <p>And/or,</p> <p>Accessible form of structured class discussions</p>
Critical Thinking	Evaluate assumptions and develop defensible conclusions based on interpretation and analysis of information relevant to course content.	<p>Class discussions, short in-class essay questions</p> <p>Presentation of anthropological theories</p> <p>Discussion of scientific and humanistic methods of studying human behavior</p>	<p>Some combination of:</p> <p>Exams including written essays;</p> <p>At least 6 pages of writing outside of class based on assigned reading of empirical and ethnographic studies or Two short commentaries about an aspect of American culture (gender roles, cultural change) utilizing qualitative methods such as content analysis or face-to-face interview with members of other cultures who live in the U.S.;</p> <p>And/or,</p> <p>Either a class presentation or a form of assessable, structured class discussion</p>
Critical Thinking Communication	Synthesize and deliver organized and well-constructed arguments about course content using multiple modalities (including written, oral, and visual formats) to include the use of technology.	<p>Class discussions, written essays, and short writing assignments</p> <p>Videos/documentaries</p>	<p>At least 6 pages of writing outside of class about anthropological topics (culture change, gender roles, ethnocentrism)</p> <p>And, either</p> <p>Oral presentations utilizing</p>

			visual aids such as Power-Point, or a form of structured, assessable class discussion analyzing or interpreting the visual information presented in class documentaries and/or presentations with a visual component.
Social Responsibility	Apply theory or findings from empirical research to a contemporary social problem.	<p>Reading and discussion of key anthropological concepts including ethnocentrism, cultural relativity, race, and ethnicity</p> <p>Reading and discussion of one or two articles in applied anthropology an how anthropologists use their research findings to find practical solutions for various socio-cultural problems including poverty, racism, sexism, and immigration</p>	<p>At least a 2-3 page written assignment outside of class</p> <p>And/or,</p> <p>Written short answer essay exam questions</p>

Additional Course Outcomes:

After completing this course students will be able to:

- Recognize the key issues and concepts in anthropology including, the nature of culture, language and culture, patterns of subsistence, economic systems, kinship an family, religion and magic, art, and anthropological fieldwork
- Identify the basic cultural universals that are found in all societies
- Recognize the diversity and the similarity of human cultures throughout the world
- Engage in intercultural interaction and appreciate and respect the great variety and diversity of norms, values, worldviews, and behaviors in different cultures
- Recognize and critically assess ethnocentrism.
- Identify cultural, economic, and political global forces and their impact on cultures around the world
- Apply anthropological knowledge for interventions in human problems for the purpose of achieving positive change and becoming responsible moral global citizens
- Attain a critical and analytical perspective toward their own culture

Course Outline:

- Introduction to the course
- Introduction: The five fields of anthropology
- What is distinctive about anthropology?
- The nature of culture

- Methods of researching culture
- Applied anthropology: anthropological research and AIDS
- The evolution of capacity for culture
- Anthropological Explanations
- Language and culture
- Production
- Reproduction
- Applied anthropology: Using family planning clinics in Ecuador
- Economic organization
- Applied anthropology: anthropology and antipoverty program
- Domestic life
- Class and cast
- Globalization
- Applied anthropology: environmental impact of radiation on Marshall Islands populations
- Applied anthropology: anthropology and environmental improvement
- Globalization in the Middle East
- Ethnicity, race, and racism
- Religion
- Migration: people on the move
- Applied anthropology: Improving child nutrition in Malawi
- Sexuality and gender hierarchies

Grading/Course Content which Demonstrates Student Achievement of Core Objectives:

<i>Course Grade</i>	<i>A: 90-100</i>	<i>B: 80-89</i>	<i>C: 70-79</i>	<i>D: 60-69</i>	<i>F: 0-59</i>
Summary of Course Exams, Quizzes, Activities, and Final					
Two Exams					50%
Class Attendance					10%
Commentaries & Oral Presentation					40%
					100%